



Polymerizable compositions for producing transparent polymeric substrates, resulting transparent polymeric substrates and applications thereof in optics.

5 This invention relates to the field of polymerizable monomeric compositions that, after polymerization, provide transparent polymeric substrates and to their use for manufacturing optical lenses, specially ophthalmic lenses.

10 The optical lenses for ophthalmic use made in an organic polymeric material have been known and used for many years.

One of the most common materials is obtained through polymerization of compositions containing diethylene glycol diallyl carbonate (hereafter called CAD).

15 This basic monomer is commercially available, for example, under the trademark CR39®.

An example of a commercially available ophthalmic lens in such a material is the ORMA® lens.

20 Such material intrinsically shows good mechanical properties, particularly a good impact and abrasion resistance as well as a good resistance to organic solvents.

Such material may also be easily coloured upon customer's request.

25 One of the disadvantages associated with the use of CAD lies in that the polymerization of such monomer is essentially carried out by a thermal treatment, with particularly long heating cycles (several hours, sometimes several days).

It should therefore be desirable to reduce the length of these polymerization cycles in order to, i.e., be able to satisfy, within the shortest time possible, the customers' requests, in order to limit the standstill of the lens production moulds and reduce the manufacturing costs.

30 Moreover, while being usually satisfactory, it is also desirable to provide materials showing improved intrinsic properties compared to materials derived from CAD.

Different material types have already been suggested in the prior art.

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US-A-4,138,538 discloses allyl monomer compositions such as CAD, containing a methacrylic monomer such as a polyethylene glycol di(meth)acrylate.

Such methacrylic monomer can be used in amount of 20 % to 70 %
5 by weight of the polymerizable mixture.

The mixture is photopolymerized, preferably at a low temperature, whereupon a thermal treatment is carried out.

US-A-4,650,845 discloses monomeric compositions containing :
from 0 to 100 parts by weight of a first component which is a
10 urethane poly(meth)acrylate monomer and from 100 to 0 parts by weight of a second component which is a composition comprising :
· from 30 % to 60 % by weight of a polyacrylate monomer,
· from 20 % to 70 % by weight of a shrinkage modifier upon polymerization, and
15 · from 0 % to 30 % by weight of a diluting monomer.

The compositions are preferably photopolymerized.

In practice, the described compositions generally provide highly crosslinked polymers due to the presence of monomers comprising many functional groups.

20 The compositions usually comprise monomers which comprise at least 4 (meth)acrylate groups ; moreover, the patent does not particularly relates to compositions comprising high Abbe number monomers.

US-A-4,912,185 discloses polymerizable monomeric compositions for manufacturing ophthalmic lenses or video discs, comprising at least a monomer of polyoxyalkylene glycol acrylate or methacrylate, at least a crosslinking agent comprising several unsaturated functions and at least a urethane monomer having from 2 to 6 methacrylic end groups.

In practice, the above-mentioned crosslinking agent has from 3 to 4 vinylic, acrylic or methacrylic functional groups.

30 Such compositions are preferably cured by mixed UV/heat polymerization.

EP-A-453,149 discloses compositions comprising a polyoxyalkylene glycol di(meth)acrylate monomer, a monomer containing a bisphenol-A unit and providing, through homopolymerization, a polymer

with a refraction index higher than 1.55 and a urethane monomer having from 2 to 6 (meth)acrylic end groups.

The polymerization is preferably a mixed UV/heat polymerization.

None of said two documents explicitly relates to the incorporation 5 of monomers with a high Abbe number and in particular of monofunctional cyclic monomers with a high Abbe number.

US-A-5,183,870 discloses compositions containing from 10 % to 60 % by weight of a polybutylene glycol di(meth)acrylate, from 20 % to 80 % by weight of a urethane poly(meth)acrylate, from 5 % to 60 % by 10 weight of a specific mono(meth)acrylate monomer and from 0 % to 60 % by weight of a compound having at least a double polymerizable bond.

According to US-A-5,183,870, the selection of the polybutylene glycol di(meth)acrylate is essential to achieve a good compromise between the impact resistance properties and a low water absorption.

Comparative example 7 discloses a composition comprising a 15 polyethylene glycol di(meth)acrylate, a urethane dimethacrylate and a tricyclo[5.2.1.0^{2.6}]decan-8-yl methacrylate.

The polymer resulting from this composition has a high water absorption rate of 3.6 %.

US-A-5,880,171 discloses photopolymerizable compositions 20 comprising :

from 20 % to 90 % and preferably at least 50 % by weight of a urethane, epoxy or polyester oligomer, the endings of which are (meth)acrylates and from 5 % to 80 % by weight of an optional diluting 25 agent which is a (meth)acrylate and/or a tri-, tetra- or poly(meth)acrylate group ended hydrocarbon diol ester.

This patent does not explicitly relates to the use of monofunctional monomers with a high Abbe number.

US-A-5,566,027 discloses photopolymerizable compositions 30 comprising from 25 % to 45 % of a urethane polyester oligomer comprising a plurality of (meth)acrylic groups bound to the polyester oligomer via a urethane group and having a molecular weight of at least 700, from 31 % to 70 % by weight of a polyfunctional (meth)acrylate with an average molecular weight less than 700, and from 5 % to 55 % by weight of a 35 monofunctional (meth)acrylate.

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This composition is used as a varnish to be applied to ophthalmic lenses.

Manufacturing the lens body from such a composition is not contemplated.

5 As it can therefore be seen, many polymerizable compositions leading to materials with a refraction index of about 1.5 have been suggested in the prior art, without however being totally satisfactory in obtaining transparent polymeric substrates, to be used in the optical field.

10 A first object of the present invention is therefore to provide new polymerizable monomeric compositions giving transparent polymeric substrates able to be substituted to CAD based polymers, i.e. whose properties are globally similar to those of CAD and are preferably improved.

15 In particular, the optical substrates must have the whole following features :

- a high transparency (transmission generally higher than 85 % and preferably higher than or equal to 90 %), with the absence of or optionally a very small light diffusion,
- a small density lower than 1.4, preferably lower than 1.3 and more preferably lower than 1.2,
- a refraction index between 1.48 and 1.52,
- a high Abbe number, higher than or equal to 40, preferably higher than or equal to 45 and more preferably higher than or equal to 50, in order to prevent chromatic aberrations,
- 20 a lack of colour after polymerization, particularly a small yellow index and a lack of yellowness in the course of time,
- a good impact resistance (particularly the uncoated glass should preferably successfully satisfy the ball drop FDA test),
- a good resistance to the action of static stresses,
- 25 a good abrasion resistance,
- a good behaviour to several treatments (deposit of hard, anti-reflection, anti-impact primary coatings, ..) and particularly a good aptitude to colouration,

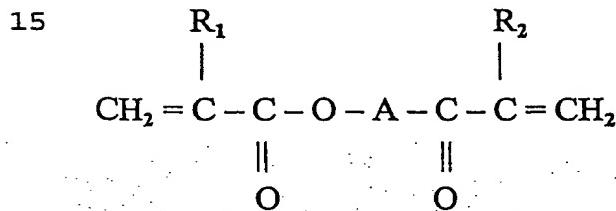
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a good behaviour to surfacing and overflow treatments without any alteration of the glass global geometry during these operations, and
 a low water absorption rate.

5 A second object of this invention is to provide compositions that can be easily and rapidly polymerized, particularly that can be polymerized using photopolymerization techniques or mixed photopolymerization and thermal polymerization techniques allowing to reduce the manufacturing cycle times for the lenses.

10 The composition of polymerizable monomers according to the invention comprises :

from 35 to 70 parts by weight of one or more monomers (I) of formula :

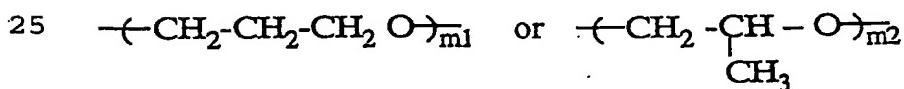


20

wherein

R_1 and R_2 represent H or CH_3 ,

A is a divalent moiety of formula :



$m1$ and $m2$ each are an integer in the range of 4 to 20,

30 from 5 to 50 parts by weight of a monomer (II) comprising at least a urethane unit and at least two (meth)acrylate functions, and

from 5 to 40 parts by weight of a monomer (III) with a high Abbe number and comprising one or more methacrylate functions, the total of the monomers (I), (II) and (III) representing 100 parts by weight.

The first important component of the compositions according to the invention is the monomer(s) (I) with the above-mentioned formula.

More precisely, these are (meth)acrylic esters of polypropylene glycol comprising a central moiety A, either straight or branched, as defined above.

The monomer(s) (I) of the first component are monomers with relatively high chain lengths, this means that the number of polypropylene glycol units present in the moiety A must be equal to or higher than 4 and preferably in the range of 4 to 20 for each of the monomers (I).

10 When several monomers (I) are used in a mixture, a mean value can be defined as follows :

$$\bar{m} = \sum_{m=4}^{20} X_m \cdot m$$

15 wherein X_m is the weight ratio of monomer (I) for which A includes m polypropylene glycol units in its chain based on the total weight of monomers of formula (I) of the mixture.

When commercial products are used, as the first component according to the invention, which already are mixtures of monomer, this
20 value \bar{m} can be easily reached by carrying out a HPLC analysis of the mixture and by calculating the ratio :

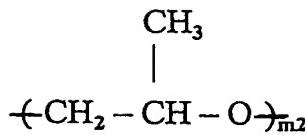
$$X_m = \frac{S_m}{S_{\text{total}}}$$

25 where S_m is the peak area corresponding to the monomer (I) having m propylene glycol units in the divalent moiety A and S_{total} is the total surface of all the peaks corresponding to the monomers (I) for which m is in the range of 4 to 20.

According to the invention, mixtures of several monomers (I) are
30 preferably used for which the mean value \bar{m} as defined above is in the range of 5 to 9, preferably between 6 and 7.

Still preferably, the monomers (I) have a branched structure, this means that the divalent moiety A represents :

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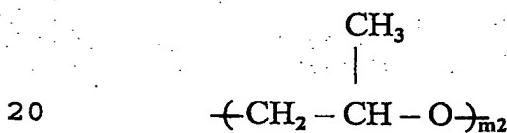
- 5 m₂ having the previously defined meaning.

The compositions according to the invention comprise from 35 to 70 parts by weight of monomer (I), the total weight of monomers (I), (II) and (III) representing 100 parts by weight.

- 10 The composition preferably comprises from 40 to 60 parts by weight of monomer (I), in the formulation of which m₁ and m₂ are integers from 5 to 10.

- 15 The monomers (I) are commercially available from Cray Valley company under the trade name CD6440P, from Shin Nakamura company under the trade name 9PG and from UCB company under the trade name PPG 400.

CD6440P is a mixture of several monomers (I), the central unit of which is :



m₂ being an integer assuming values from 3 to 10 depending on the following mass ratios :

$$m_2 = 3 \quad 2 \%$$

$$25 \quad m_2 = 4 \quad 8 \%$$

$$m_2 = 5 \quad 14 \%$$

$$m_2 = 6 \quad 20 \%$$

$$m_2 = 7 \quad 27 \%$$

$$m_2 = 8 \quad 19 \%$$

$$30 \quad m_2 = 9 \quad 9 \%$$

$$m_2 = 10 \quad 1 \%$$

with a mean value $\bar{m}_2 = 6.6$.

- 35 The first component generally provides softness and flexibility to the polymeric network constituting the final substrate, while allowing to obtain a low water recovery rate.

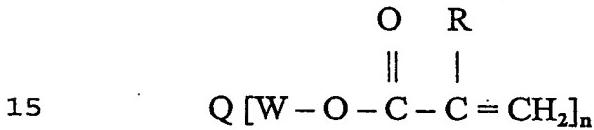
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The second component of the compositions according to the invention is a monomer (II) comprising at least a urethane unit and at least two methacrylate functions.

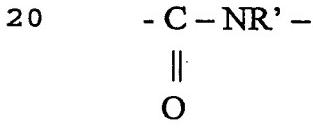
- 5 Two monomer (II) families with urethane units are preferably used.
The first family includes urethane di(meth)acrylate oligomers and, preferably, those that are aliphatic polyesters.

Examples of such compounds are the urethane di(meth)acrylate oligomers from Cray Valley company, particularly the product known under the trade name CN964®.

- 10 The second family is made up of the monomers (II) with the following formula :

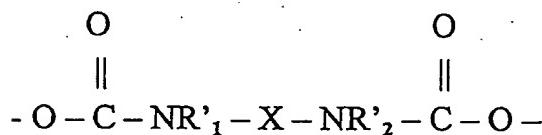


wherein Q is a moiety of a valence n, with a straight, branched or cyclic structure, comprising at least two units of formula :



W is a divalent alkyl moiety, with a straight or branched structure, containing from 1 to 5 carbon atoms,
n varies from 2 to 4,
R represents H or CH_3 , and
R' represents H or a valence link.

- 25
30 W preferably represents the moiety $-CH_2CH_2-$.
Moiety Q is preferably a divalent moiety of formula :

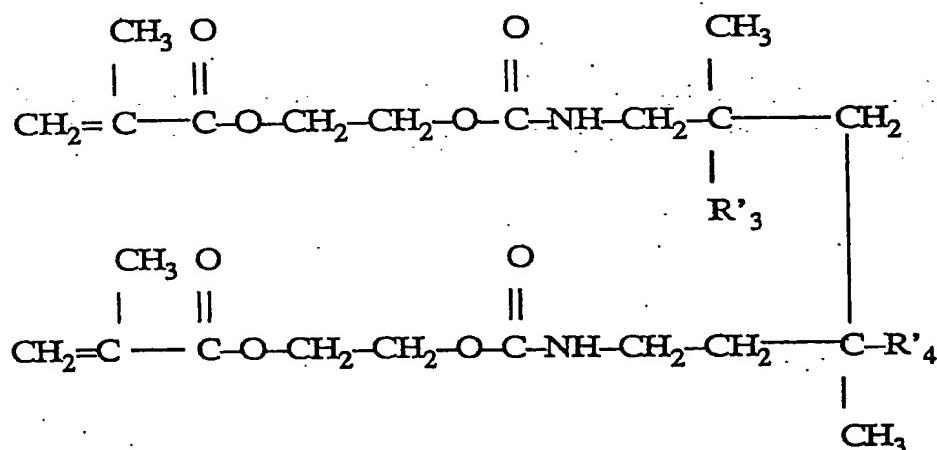


wherein X represents a straight or a branched divalent alkyl chain having from 1 to 15 carbon atoms, preferably from 8 to 12 carbon atoms.

R'_1 and R'_2 , independently from one another represent H or CH_3 .

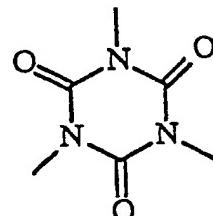
Such a monomer is commercially available under the tradename

5 PLEX 6661-0 and has the following formula:

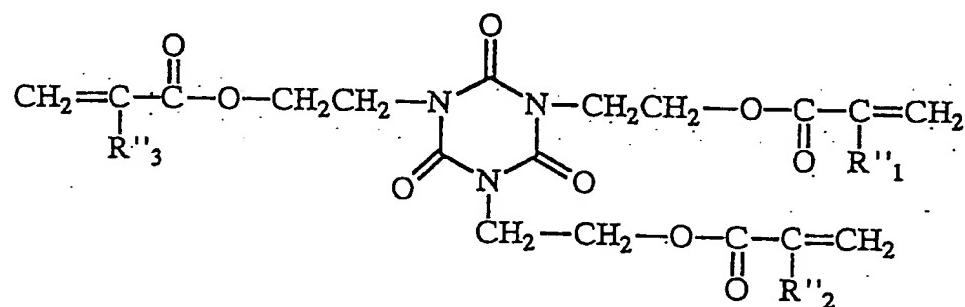


wherein R₃' and R₄' represent, independently from one another, H or CH₃.

Amongst the second monomer (II) family, other preferred monomers are those in the formulation of which Q is a trivalent moiety of formula :



Commercially available monomers of this type have the following formula :



wherein R"₁, R"₂ and R"₃ represent, independently from one another, H or CH₃.

5 The monomer of the above formula in which R"₁, R"₂ and R"₃ each represent a methyl group is available from Cray Valley company under the trade name SR290.

The monomer of the above formula in which R"₁, R"₂ and R"₃ each represent a hydrogen atom is available from Cray Valley company under the trade name SR368.

10 From a general point of view, monomers of the (II) type are preferably selected and they increase the glass transition temperature of the final polymer.

The monomer (II) is present in a proportion of from 5 to 50 parts by weight, preferably from 30 to 50 and more preferably from 30 to 40 parts by weight based on the total weight of monomers (I), (II) and (III).

15 Commercially available monomers (II) include :

- 1. Aliphatic urethane diacrylates
 - CN934, 964, 965, 963, 966, 967, 981 from CRAY VALLEY company,
 - Ebecryl 230, 244, 245, 270, 284, 285, 4830, 4835, 8800 from UCB company.

20 2. Aromatic urethane diacrylates

- CN970, 972, 973 and 976 (CRAY VALLEY),
- Ebecryl 210, 215 and 4244 (UCB).

25 3. Urethane acrylates with a functionality higher than 2

- Triacrylates :

- CN920, 922, 923, 924 and 929 (CRAY VALLEY)
- Ebecryl 204, 205, 254, 264 and 265 (UCB)

30 - Tetracrylates :

- CN925, 945, 923 and 995 (CRAY VALLEY)
- U4HA (SHIN NAKAMURA)

- Hexaacrylates :
 - CN975 (CRAY VALLEY)
 - Ebecryl 220, 1290, 2220, 5129 (UCB)
 - U6HA (SHIN NAKAMURA)

35 4. Aliphatic urethane methacrylates

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PLEX66610 (ROHM)

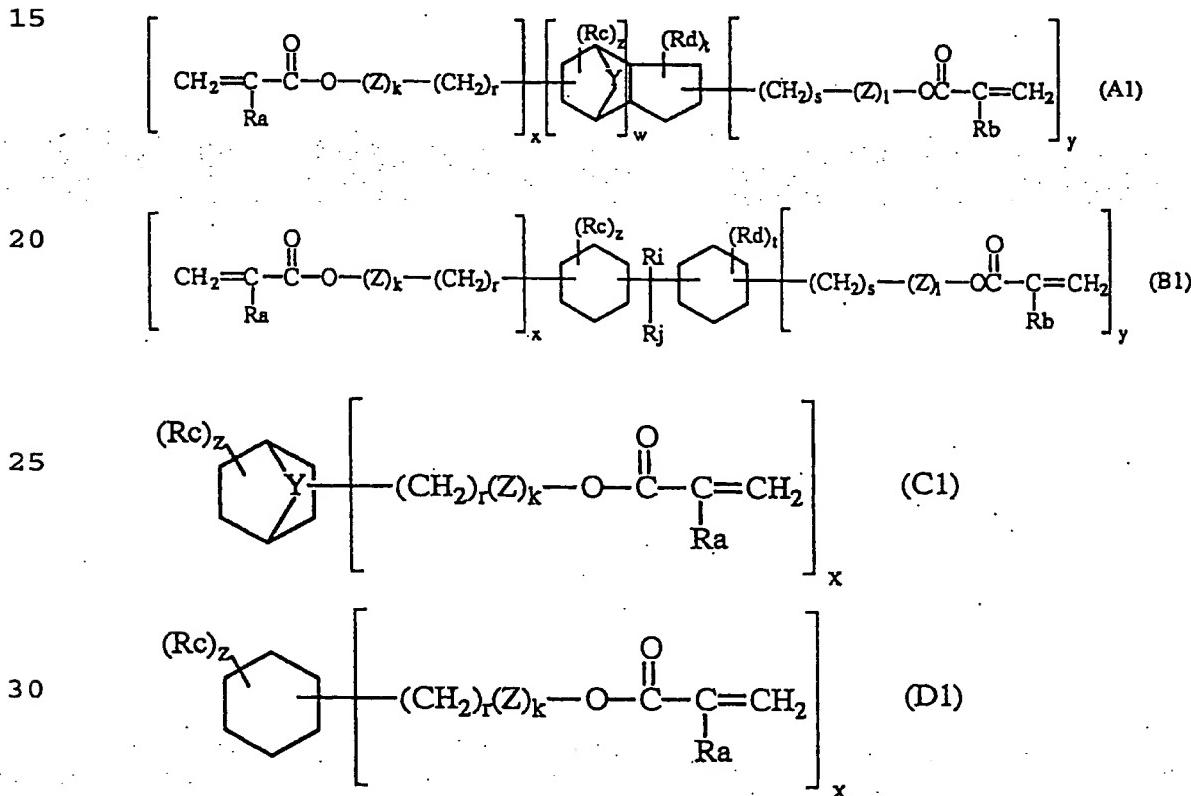
U4H (tetrafunctional methacrylate from SHIN NAKAMURA).

The third essential component of the polymerizable monomeric compositions according to the invention is a monomer (III) with a high Abbe number and including one or more (meth)acrylate functions.

With a high Abbe number monomer, it is to be understood a monomer able to generate, through homopolymerization, a transparent polymer with a high Abbe number, that is to say, of at least 50 and preferably of at least 55.

The high Abbe number monomer preferably includes at least one non aromatic cyclic or polycyclic hydrocarbon moiety.

The monomer (III) is preferably selected amongst at least one of the monomers of the following formulae :

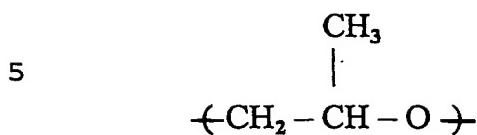


In these formulae,

Y is a divalent moiety selected amongst -O-, -CH₂-, -C(CH₃)₂-, 35 -C(H)(CH₃)-,

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Z is a divalent moiety selected amongst $-(CH_2)_p-O-$, p being an integer from 1 to 4, and



R_a, R_b represent H or CH₃,

10 R_c, R_d represent, independently from one another, a straight or a branched alkyl moiety, having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms,

R_e, R_f represent, independently from one another, a straight or a branched alkyl moiety, having from 1 to 10 carbon atoms,

w is an integer of between 1 to 3,

x is an integer of between 0 to 3,

15 y is an integer of between 0 to 3,

providing that x + y is equal to or higher than 1,

k is an integer of between 0 to 6,

l is an integer of between 0 to 6,

r is an integer of between 0 to 6,

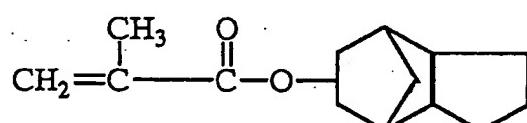
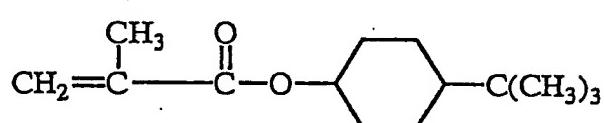
20 s is an integer of between 0 to 6,

z is an integer of between 0 to 3 and

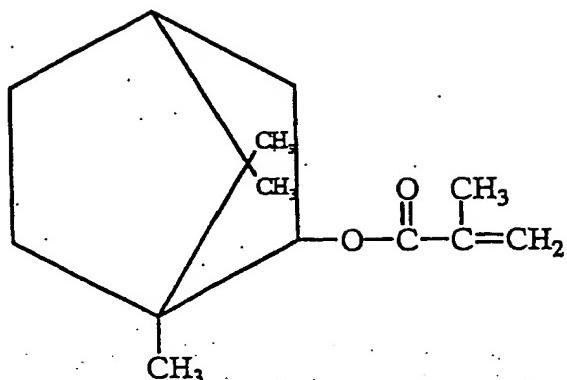
t is an integer of between 0 to 3.

The particularly preferred monomers (III) are selected amongst the monomers of formulae :

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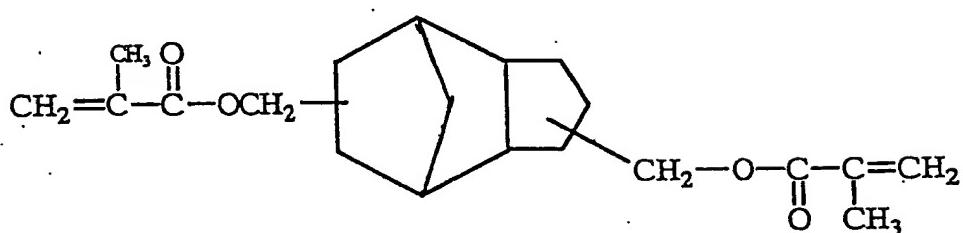


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The monomer (III) is used in the compositions according to the invention in a ratio of from 5 to 40 parts by weight, preferably from 10 to 20

parts by weight based on the total weight of the monomers (I), (II) and (III).

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The compositions of monomers according to the invention may include other polymerizable monomers (IV) different from the monomers (I), (II) and (III) that are able to integrate the final resulting network, especially monomers polymerizable by radical mechanism.

25

Such monomers allow to adjust the properties of the resulting transparent substrates.

These monomers can be present in the compositions according to the invention in a proportion of 0 % to 40 % by weight, preferably of 0 % to 20 %, based on the total weight of the monomers (I), (II) and (III).

30

The following monomers can be mentioned amongst these monomers (IV) :

alkyl (meth)acrylates such as methyl (meth)acrylate and ethyl (meth)acrylate, cycloalkyl (meth)acrylates such as cyclohexyl (meth)acrylate and dicyclopentyl (meth)acrylate, phenyl (meth)acrylate,

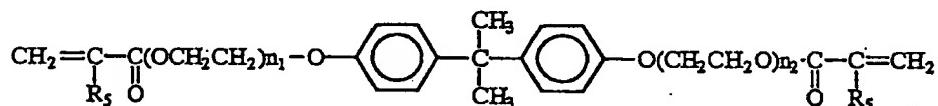
35 benzyl (meth)acrylate, naphthyl (meth)acrylates, phenoxyalkyl

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(meth)acrylates such as phenoxyethyl (meth)acrylate and phenoxybutyl (meth)acrylate, alkylene glycol di(meth)acrylates such as ethylene glycol di(meth)acrylate and propylene glycol di(meth)acrylate, other polyalkylene glycol di(meth)acrylates than monomers (I) such as polyethylene glycol di(meth)acrylates and polybutylene glycol di(meth)acrylates, neopentylglycol di(meth)acrylate and bisphenol-A di(meth)acrylates derivatives.

Amongst the bisphenol-A di(meth)acrylate compounds, the compounds of the following formulae may be mentioned :

10



wherein R_5 represents H or CH_3 and $n_1 + n_2$ has a mean value of from 0 to

15 40.

Preferred compounds with the above mentioned formula are those for which $\text{R}_5 = \text{CH}_3$ and $\overline{n_1+n_2} = 2.6$ (EBADMA), $\overline{n_1+n_2} = 4$ (DBADMA), $\overline{n_1+n_2} = 10$ (OBADMA) and $\overline{n_1+n_2} = 30$.

The monomer (IV) can be a monomer or a mixture of monomers
20 having the formula (I) and wherein m_1 or m_2 is an integer lower than 4. However, in this case, the quantity of monomers (IV) is preferably such that the mean value :

$$\bar{m} = \sum_{m=1}^{20} X_m \cdot m$$

25

is at least equal to 4 and preferably at least equal to 5.

The monomer (IV) is preferably such that its homopolymer has a refraction index lower than or equal to 1.54.

These other monomers (IV) generally represent from 0 % to 40 %
30 by weight, preferably 0 % to 20 %, more preferably from 0 % to 10 % by weight based on the total weight of monomers (I), (II) and (III) in the composition.

The compositions according to the invention also include a polymerization initiating system. The polymerization initiating system may 35 include one or more thermal or photochemical polymerization initiators or a

thermal or photochemical polymerization initiator mixture as well. These initiators are well known in the art and any conventional initiator may be used. Amongst the thermal polymerization initiators useful in the present invention, peroxides may be mentioned such as benzoyl peroxide, cyclohexyl peroxydicarbonate and isopropyl peroxydicarbonate.

The photoinitiators may include particularly 2,4,6-trimethylbenzoyldiphenylphosphine oxide, 1-hydroxycyclohexylphenylketone, 2,2-dimethoxy-1,2-diphenylethane-1-one and benzoyl alkyl ethers.

Initiators are generally used in a proportion between 0,01 % to 5 % by weight based on the total weight of the polymerizable monomers included in the composition.

The polymerizable compositions according to the invention may also include additives conventionally used in polymerizable compositions for moulding optical or ophthalmic items, particularly glasses and lenses, in conventional proportions, namely inhibitors, dyes, UV absorbers, perfumes, deodorants, antioxidants, anti-yellowing agents and photochromic compounds.

The monomeric compositions according to the invention usually have a viscosity equal to or lower than 0.3 Pa.s and preferably lower than 0.2 Pa.s.

The compositions according to the invention can be thermally or photochemically polymerized or by a combination of both.

The present invention will now be more fully described in the following examples. In these examples, unless otherwise mentioned, all percentages and parts are expressed by weight.

Examples 1 to 17

1) Preparation of the compositions

Polymerizable compositions mentioned in table I hereafter are prepared according to the following method :

Different components of the compositions are weighed in a room with controlled light, in smoked glass vials.

CD6440P, the monomer (I), and the comonomers (II) and (III) as well as a photoinitiator and a UV absorber are mixed with a sustained stirring for a few minutes. A thermal initiator, stored at low temperature, is added in the last step (for stability reasons).

2) Cast process

Compositions prepared as indicated above are cast in moulds formed with two mineral glass mould parts previously cleaned with soda and parallelly assembled with a Barnier adhesive tape and located 2 mm apart from each other. The casting is carried out in the following way :

- 5 · the composition is taken out by means of a sterile syringe (20 ml),
- 10 · the adhesive tape is partially disassembled to generate an opening,
- 10 · the syringe tip is introduced through the opening,
- 10 · the composition is injected in the mould, and
- 10 · the adhesive tape is readjusted to seal the mould.

3) Photochemical prepolymerization

The filled moulds are placed in a photochemical polymerization oven which includes two UV PRIMA lamps (mercury lamps) positioned on both sides of the moulds at equal distance and each mould receives from each lamp an illumination of approximately :

- 40 mW/cm²
- 125 mW/cm²

20 Infra-red measures enable to follow the conversion of the double (meth)acrylic bonds as a function of the UV irradiation time.

4) Thermal polymerization and annealing

25 After polymerization, the adhesive tape is removed and the assembly put in a drying-room at 100°C for 2 hours in order to complete polymerization ; the glasses are then removed from the moulds and checked with an arc lamp. A final annealing allows to improve polymerization and to relax the remaining stresses from the resulting substrate.

The features of the resulting substrates are listed in table II.

30 The yellow index Yi has been measured according to ASTM D 1925 standard.

Colourability measure (% Tv red).

35 The given measure is the transmission value measured in the visible range of a 2 mm thick glass at the centre which is coloured by dipping in an aqueous bath at 94°C in which a "disperse Red 13" red pigment from Eastman Kodak is dispersed.

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The Tg measure is carried out by DMA (dynamic mechanical analysis) on a planar 5.2 cm x 1 cm x 2 mm (thickness) sample.

The test is carried out in a 3 point bending.

Tg corresponds to the maximum of ratio :

5

E'' (loss modulus)

E' (conservation modulus)

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TABLE I

CD6440P = Polypropylene glycol 400 dimethacrylate from CRAY VALLEY company

PLEX® = PLEX 6661-0 (diurethane dimethacrylate) from ROHM company

SR290® = tri[ethyl methacrylate] isocyanurate from CRAY VALLEY

5 company

SR368® = tri[ethylacrylate] isocyanurate from CRAY VALLEY company

FA513A = Tricyclodécanyl acrylate from FRANCYRL company

FA513M = Tricyclodecanyl methacrylate from FRANCYRL company

tBCHMa = Tert-butyl methacrylate from ROHM company

10 DCP = Tricyclodecane dimethanol dimethacrylate

SR423® = Isobornyl methacrylate from CRAY VALLEY

iBMA = Isobornyl methacrylate (ROHM)

tBPEH = Tert-butyl peroxy-2-ethylhexanoate

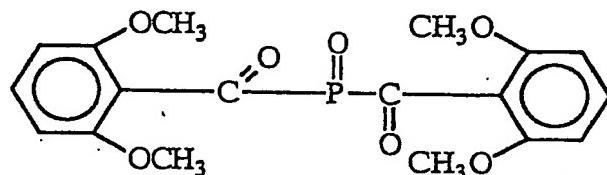
M₃CHMa = Trimethylcyclohexyl methacrylate

15 UV5411 = 2-(2'-hydroxy-5'-t-octylphenyl)benzotriazole from American Cyanamid company

CGI1850 = photoinitiator from CIBA GEIGY company, made up of a mixture (in a mass ratio of 50/50)

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of



25

and of

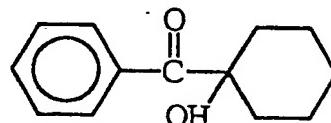


TABLE 2

Ex.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
n_e	1,496	1,499	1,495	1,499	1,501	1,503	1,499	1,500	1,497	1,501	1,502	1,504	1,496	1,504	1,505	1,502	1,502
ν_e	56	56	57	56	55	54	56	57	55	55	55	56	56	56	55	55	55
D	1,12	1,13	1,12	1,13	1,13	1,15	1,14	1,14	1,13	1,15	1,15	1,14	1,135	1,11	1,15	1,14	1,14
Y_1 (2mm)	1,6	1,8	1,7	2,1	1,1	1,9	1,2	1,4	1,5	1,2	1,0	1,0	1,5	1,5	1,2	1,5	1,4
% T _v red	51	50	54	53	55	50	36	40	38	38	40	50	52	46	45	46	43
T _g (°C)	96	96	96	100	108	100	82	88	90	93	82			93	100	100	88
E'25°C(Mpa)	1730	2000	1950	1930	2200	2000	1780	1670	1700	1650	1720			1940	1500	1490	1540
E'100°C(Mpa)	103	118	100	125	220	200	62	80	75	145	80			300	420	360	300

n_e = refraction index

ν_e = Abbe number

d = density

Y_i = yellow index

5 E'25 and E'100 = elastic moduli at 25°C and 100°C respectively.

The viscosities are determined on 250 ml samples by means of a Brookfield viscometer DV2 model at shear rates varying from 6 to 60 rotations per minute (mobile no. 61 or no. 62). Mobile no. 61 has been used with a shear rate of 12 rotations/minute.

10 The refraction indexes ($\lambda = 546$ nm) and the Abbe numbers have been determined at 25°C by means of a BELLINGHAM-STANLEY LIMITED ABBE 60/TR refractometer using different lamps (sodium, mercury and cadmium) as light sources.

15 The DMA analyses have been carried out with a Rheometrics Solid Analyser RSA II device on 52 x 10 x 2 mm samples at a 1 Hz frequency and on a temperature range of -50°C to 170°C at 2°C/minute.

Impact resistance test

An impact resistance test has been carried out on the ophthalmic lenses of examples 2 and 5 respectively having a central thickness of 20 1.09 mm and 1.01 mm and a -2 diopter power, by dropping balls with an increasing kinetic energy at the centre of lenses until the lens breaks or has a star-shaped cracks and the mean breaking energy is determined.

The obtained results are as follows :

Example 2 lens : 3400 mJ +/- 1800

25 Example 5 lens : 3800 mJ +/- 1600

20 ophthalmic lenses according to example 1, having a thickness of 1.01 mm +/- 0.07 mm at the centre and a -2 diopter power have undergone the previous impact resistance test.

The average breaking energy equals 3430 mJ +/- 1250.

Water absorption test

A glass according to example 1 and a glass according to example 6 have been weighed, dried in an oven and subsequently dipped in water at 90°C for 30 minutes. The glasses have been removed, wiped and weighed again.

35 The water absorption rate has been calculated :

$$T_{\text{water}} = \frac{\text{Weight after water treatment} - \text{Initial weight}}{\text{Initial weight}} \times 100$$

Values of respectively 0.58 and 0.75 % have been found for the
5 glasses of examples 1 and 6.